



CHILDREN'S EUCHARISTIC ADORATION IS DEDICATED TO
BLESSED FRANCISCO, the Little Shepherd Boy of Fatima

Putting into practice the request of Our Lady: Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta

The “Little Shepherds” of Fatima give us the best examples of how to fulfil Our Lady’s request to make reparation for sins. They were given a special grace to *understand* and to *respond* to this request. Part of their vocation was to show us in concrete terms what Our Lady wants us to do.

There are many examples in Lucia’s memoirs of how the children put this request into practice.

“A neighbour took it upon herself one day, why I don’t know, to remark that some gentlemen had given me some money, though I cannot remember how much. Without more ado, my mother called me and asked for it. When I told her I hadn’t received any, she wanted to force me to hand it over to her, and to this end, had recourse to the broom-handle. When the dust had been well beaten out of my clothes, Carolina, one of my sisters, intervened, along with a girl from our neighbourhood called Virginia. They said they had been present the interrogation, and they had seen that the gentlemen had actually given me nothing at all. Thanks to their defending me, I Was able to slip away to my beloved well, and there offer yet another sacrifice to our good Lord”

“One day, when I showed how unhappy I was over the persecution now beginning both in my family and outside, Francisco tried to encourage me with these words: “Never mind! Didn’t Our Lady say that we would have much to suffer, to make reparation to Our Lord and to Her own Immaculate Heart for all the sins by which They are offended? They are so sad! If we can console Them with these sufferings, how happy we shall be!”

“When Jacinta saw me in tears, she tried to console me, saying ‘Don’t cry. Surely, these are the sacrifices which the Angel said that God was going to send us. That’s why you are suffering, so that you can make reparation to Him and convert sinners.”

Sister Lucia writes that Jacinta was insatiable when it came to offering such sacrifices:

“We were playing one day at the well I have mentioned. Close to it, there was a grape vine belonging to Jacinta’s mother. She cut a few clusters and brought them to us to eat. But Jacinta never forgot her sinners.

‘We won’t eat them’ she said, ‘we’ll offer this sacrifice for sinners.’

“Then she ran out with the grapes and gave them to the other children playing on the road. She returned radiant with joy, for she had found our poor children, and given them the grapes.”

“Another time, my aunt called us to come and eat some figs which she had brought home, and indeed they would have given anybody an appetite. Jacinta sat down happily next to the basket, with the rest of us, and picked up the first fig. She was just about to eat it, when she suddenly remembered, and said: ‘It’s true! Today we haven’t yet made a single sacrifice for sinners! We’ll have to make this one.’

She put the fig back in the basket, and made the offering; and we, too, left our figs in the basket for the conversion of sinners. Jacinta made such sacrifices over and over again, but I won’t stop to tell any more, or I shall never end.”

(From FATIMA IN LUCIA’S OWN WORDS)

So the “Little Shepherds” give us concrete examples of how we can respond to Our Lady’s request and we can see from them that She is not asking us to do anything out of the ordinary. It is enough to simply accept in a spirit of penance, mortification and patient acceptance, all the little sufferings and hardships that we have to deal with in our daily life. We can offer them up by way of reparation for our sins and to console her Immaculate Heart. Added to this, we can fulfil Our Lady’s request for the First Saturday’s Devotion.

One of the prayers which the Angel of Fatima taught the children is particularly good for offering up our small sacrifices:

“O Jesus, it is for love of Thee, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary”

